



The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of the community

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LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY

I am writing to let you know that there is a real danger that the service of the Local Studies Library is in seriously at risk of being drastically reduced.

When I spoke at the Area Two Committee meeting on Tuesday 2 February [speech attached] the only councillor who responded was Councillor Fairley-Churchill. As deputy leader of the Conservation Group and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health, he will have a large say in any finance which is allocated to the Local Studies Library.

Cllr Fairley-Churchill's reaction was that he was "*amused*" by my words – after all, a mere handful of people – 2,000 were all that were interested in local history. His language suggested that people who were interested in local history were part of the lunatic fringe. He went on to say that the service was only being used by historical writers when researching their books.

The decision on the future of the Local Studies Library will be made at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 16 February, which will begin at 7:15 pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber. In this regard, I attach a letter from Cllr Weinberg who is leading the public consultation on this issue.

I am writing to you to urge you to arrange for representations to be made at this meeting. I have put my name down to speak at the Cabinet meeting under item 3: Public participation, statements, questions, deputations and petitions. A minimum of 24 hours notice is needed [weekends are not counted] and the Committee Support Officer, Sazeda Ibrahim, needs to be contacted on 0208 708 2315 or sazeda.ibrahim@redbridge.gov.uk. If requested, she will send you the rules of speaking, the most important being that there is a strict observance of a 2 minute allocation.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN E ZAMMETT
Chair